



## Virginia Board of Counseling

The Board of Counseling has amended regulations for certified substance abuse counselors (CSAC) and certified substance abuse counseling assistants (CSAC-A).

*The Board of Counseling has developed a chart to help assist CSAC supervisees, CSAC, CSAC-A's and CSAC Supervisors identify changes to CSAC and CSAC-A requirements. [Click to view a comparison chart of the changes.](#) To view the complete amended regulations, please visit the [Board of Counseling website.](#)*

### **Key Regulations changes for CSAC and CSAC-A's effective January 20, 2020.**

#### **Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC)**

1. Didactic training in substance abuse education requirements:
  - a. Total didactic hours increase from 220 hours to 240 hours.
  - b. Didactic training content areas were restructured and expanded.
  - c. Each content area requires 16 clock hours of didactic training.
  - d. Federal, state, or local government agency, public school system or licensed health facilities are now allowed to provide didactic training in substance abuse.
2. Supervision must be registered and approved prior to beginning supervised experience.
3. Prior to being approved for supervision, the applicant must have completed at least 120 hours of didactic training.
4. A supervisory contract must be established prior to approval to beginning supervised experience.
5. Any changes to the supervisor (adding/changing a supervisor) requires the applicant to submit the add/change of supervision application packet and gain Board approval *prior* to beginning a new supervised experience.

6. Supervised experience must be completed in no less than 12 months and no more than 60 months.
  - a. Supervisees who began their supervised experience prior to 1/20/2020, must complete their experience prior to 1/20/2025.
7. During the supervised experience, supervisees must use their name and the title “supervisee” in all written communications. Clients must be informed in writing of the supervisee’s status and the supervisor’s name, professional address, and phone number.
8. Supervisors must have professional training in supervision after 1/20/2021.
9. Applicants that have completed the education and supervised experience requirements and are approved to sit for the examination will be given two years to pass the examination.
10. CSACs are required to complete continuing education each renewal.
  - a. CSACs must complete a minimum of 10 contact hours of continuing education in substance abuse each renewal. **This will impact the June 30, 2020 renewal.**
  - b. Continuing education requirements are not required for the first renewal following initial certification.

### **Certified Substance Abuse Counseling Assistant (CSAC-A)**

1. Didactic training in substance abuse education requirements:
  - a. Didactic training content areas were restructured and expanded.
  - b. Each content area requires 8 clock hours of didactic training.
  - c. Federal, state, or local government agency, public school system or licensed health facilities are now allowed to provide didactic training in substance abuse.
2. National Practitioner Data Report (NPDB) self-query is required as part of the application.
3. Applicant that have completed the education and supervised experience requirements and are approved to sit for the examination will be given two years to pass the examination.
4. CSAC-As are required to complete continuing education each renewal.
  - a. CSAC-As must complete a minimum of 5 contact hours of continuing education in substance abuse each renewal. **This will impact the June 30, 2020 renewal.**

b. Continuing education requirements are not required for the first renewal following initial certification.

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